

## August District Work Period Packet

Since the beginning of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, the House Committee on Natural Resources has acted aggressively to expand onshore and offshore American energy development, improve access to and management of federal lands and waters, protect states’ rights, solve the nation’s catastrophic wildfire crisis, secure western water abundance and drought relief, protect and boost infrastructure, empower Indian and Alaska Native communities, and reform and improve landmark environmental laws such as the Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act.

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## Reversing Abusive Federal Regulatory Overreach

The Republican-led Congress has acted aggressively to address federal regulatory overreach, reverse economically harmful rules and protect federalism through a range of resolutions of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act (CRA). Below you will find the summary and status of CRA resolutions within the jurisdiction of the House Committee on Natural Resources.

### Protecting Jobs and Affordable Energy (H.J. Res. 38)

Congress passed and the President signed H.J. Res. 38, a joint resolution of disapproval of the Stream Protection Rule, reversing the rule and preventing any substantially similar rule to regulate the coal industry out of business from being issued in the future. H.J. Res. 38:

- Provides certainty to state regulators tasked with regulating 97% of the coal mines in the U.S. and enforcing existing federal mining regulations
- Prevents the removal of one half or more of total U.S. Coal reserves from being available for extraction
- Restores an important stream of state and federal tax revenue associated with coal extraction across the country
- Ensures that OSM cannot issue a rule that is substantially the same without authorization from Congress

### Protecting State and Local Input in Federal Land Management (H.J. Res. 44)

Congress passed and President Trump signed H.J. Res. 44, a joint resolution of disapproval to reverse the BLM's Planning 2.0 Rule. H.J. Res. 44:

- Returns authority to local communities most affected by federal land management decisions
- Ensures that BLM cannot issue a rule that is substantially the same without authorization from Congress

### Protecting States' Authority to Manage Fish and Game (H.J. Res. 69)

Congress passed and President Trump signed H.J. Res. 69 preventing an unlawful power grab in Alaska's National Wildlife Refuges and dangerous precedent to be set on the management of state fish and wildlife for the lower 48 states. H.J. Res. 69:

- Restores the rule of law as Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) initial rule violates the "Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act" granting the State of Alaska to manage fish and wildlife resources of state, private and federal lands
- Blocks the top-down, one-size-fits-all management policies from FWS bureaucrats
- Ensures that FWS cannot issue a rule that is substantially the same without authorization from Congress

### Protecting Responsible Energy Development (H.J. Res. 36)



The House passed H.J. Res. 36 on February 3, 2017. The joint resolution aims to save critical energy jobs and domestic production – mostly from small, marginal producers. H.J. Res. 36:

- Restores the Rule of Law – BLM does not have the authority to regulate air quality, that is solely vested with the EPA and states as written in the Clean Air Act
- Acknowledges that methane emissions from oil and natural gas have significantly declined as domestic production has surged
- Reduces duplicative and burdensome regulations of the Obama administration that undermine successful, existing state regulations
- Encourages innovation and recognizes strides industry has taken to reduce emissions
- Benefits taxpayers and states from securing an essential stream of revenue from oil and gas royalties
- Ensures that BLM cannot issue a rule that is substantially the same without authorization from Congress



## Creating Domestic Energy & Mineral Abundance

### **“Helium Extraction Act of 2017” (H.R. 3279) – passed Committee**

The “Helium Extraction Act of 2017,” introduced by Rep. Paul Cook (R-CA), amends the Mineral Leasing Act to allow helium extraction from gas on federal lands under the same lease terms as oil and gas. Helium is an essential element used in medical, defense and energy related services such as MRIs, missile guidance systems and semiconductors. Given Qatar’s recent political crisis, the bill works to alleviate potential future supply concerns by facilitating the production of helium on federal lands, while providing a fair return to the taxpayer. [Press Release](#), [Memo](#)

### **“Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act” (H.R. 825) – passed Committee**

The “Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act,” introduced by Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ), promotes the development of renewable energy on federal lands. The bill streamlines the permitting process for wind, solar, and geothermal energy general and establishes a Renewable Energy Resource Conservation Fund to be used to conserve land affected by renewable development. [Memo](#)

### **“American Soda Ash Competitiveness Act” (H.R. 1399) – passed Committee**

The “American Soda Ash Competitiveness Act,” introduced by Rep. Paul Cook (R-CA), reduces the royalty rate for soda ash to two percent from six percent for five years. [Memo](#)

### **Protecting Jobs and Affordable Energy (H.J. Res. 38) – signed into law**

H.J. Res. 38, introduced by Rep. Bill Johnson (R-OH), reverses the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) rule that threatened one-third of the nation’s coal mining workforce. It also prevented any substantially similar rule to regulate the coal industry out of business from being issued in the future. [Info](#), [One Pager](#), [The Scope](#)

### **Protecting Responsible Energy Development (H.J. Res. 36) – passed House**

H.J. Res. 36, introduced by Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT), reversed the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) harmful rule to destroy responsible energy production on federal lands. [Info](#), [One Pager](#), [The Scope](#)

### **Related Oversight:**

May 24 – Legislative Hearing on the Discussion Draft of the “Community Reclamation Partnerships Act”

June 21 – Legislative Hearing on Discussion Draft of the “Helium Extraction Act of 2017”

June 29 – Oversight Hearing on “Examining Access to Oil and Gas Development on Federal Lands”

July 12 – Oversight Hearing on “Evaluating Federal Offshore Oil and Gas Development on the Outer Continental Shelf”

July 18 – Oversight Hearing on “Promoting Onshore Oil and Gas Development in Alaska”

July 20 – Oversight Hearing on “Seeking Innovative Solutions for the Future of Hardrock Mining”



## **“All-the-Above Infrastructure” for “All-the-Above Energy”**

### **“Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act” (H.R. 1873) – passed House**

The “Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act,” introduced by Reps. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA) and Kurt Schrader (D-OR), provides streamlined processes for the removal of hazardous vegetative overgrowth adjacent to transmission and distribution lines on federal lands, reducing the threat of wildfires and enhancing electric grid reliability. [Press Release](#), [One Pager](#)

### **“BOR Pumped Storage Hydropower Development Act” (H.R. 1967) – passed House**

The “Bureau of Reclamation Pumped Storage Hydropower Development Act,” introduced by Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO), streamlines the permitting of non-federal pumped storage hydroelectric projects at certain BOR facilities. By eliminating regulatory permitting confusion, the bill provides for greater certainty in hydropower markets and more clean, affordable energy for consumers. [Memo](#)

### **“Bureau of Reclamation Transparency Act” (H.R. 660) – passed Committee**

The “Bureau of Reclamation Transparency Act,” introduced by Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ) requires the Department of the Interior to publish reports detailing rehabilitation needs at their facilities, which provide vital irrigation water for Western farmers and the nation’s fruit and vegetable crops. [Memo](#)

### **Expanding Alaskan Hydropower Infrastructure (H.R. 220) – passed Committee**

Introduced by Rep. Don Young (R-AK), the bill authorizes the expansion of the Terror Lake hydroelectric project to meet electricity demand for the Kodiak Island community. The bill adds 33,000 megawatt-hours of generation each year for the Island’s residents. [Memo](#)

### **“Public Water Supply Invasive Species Compliance Act of 2017” (H.R. 1807) – passed Committee**

The “Public Water Supply Invasive Species Compliance Act of 2017,” introduced by Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX), exempts water transfers between the States of Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana from Lacey Act restrictions that can lead to unwarranted water supply disruptions. [Memo](#)

### **“Reclamation Title Transfer and Non-Federal Infrastructure Incentivization Act” (H.R. 3281) – passed Committee**

The “Reclamation Title Transfer and Non-Federal Infrastructure Incentivization Act,” introduced by Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO), streamlines the process of transferring select Bureau of Reclamation projects or facilities to local water users in order to incentivize new non-federal investment in water infrastructure and afford more efficient management of water and water-related facilities. [Memo](#)



### **Related Oversight:**

March 1 – Oversight Hearing on “Modernizing Western Water and Power Infrastructure in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”

March 16 – Oversight Hearing on “Identifying Innovative Infrastructure Ideas for the National Park Service and Forest Service”

March 9 – Oversight Hearing on “Improving and Expanding Infrastructure in Tribal and Insular Communities”

March 21 – Oversight Hearing on “Importance of Domestically Sourced Raw Materials for Infrastructure Projects”

March 28 – Oversight Hearing on “ESA Consultation Impediments to Economic and Infrastructure Development”

April 4 – Legislative Hearing on H.R. 220, H.R. 1411, the “Transparent Summer Flounder Quotas Act,” and Discussion Draft of the “Bureau of Reclamation Pumped Storage Hydropower Act”

May 3 – Oversight Hearing on “Challenges of keeping Hydropower Affordable and Opportunities for New Development”

June 8 – Legislative Hearing on H.R. 2083, the “Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act,” and Discussion Draft of the “Reclamation Title Transfer Act”



## **Environmental Stewardship & Responsible Resource Development**

### **“Community Reclamation Partnership Act” (H.R. 2937) – passed Committee**

The “Community Reclamation Partnership Act,” introduced Rep. Darin LaHood (R-IL), enables non-governmental entities to participate in the reclamation of abandoned mine lands and contribute their own resources towards such projects. The bill addresses impediments potential “Community Reclaimers” face in the reclamation process by allowing states to assume liability on their behalf, shielding them from any undue legal liability under the law. [Memo](#)

### **“Revitalizing the Economy of Coal Communities by Leveraging Local Activities and Investing More Act of 2017” or “RECLAIM Act” (H.R. 1731) – passed Committee**

The “RECLAIM Act of 2017,” introduced by Rep. Hal Rogers (R-KY), addresses outstanding abandoned mine lands (AML) issues, including ensuring that monies authorized to be spent under the program are limited to reclamation work alone, while encouraging economic revitalization of coal communities nationwide. [Memo](#)

### **“Mining School Enhancement Act” (H.R. 2053) – passed Committee**

The “Mining Schools Enhancement Act,” introduced by Rep. Martha McSally (R-AZ), amends the “Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977” to provide support to mining and mineral engineering programs in the United States. Within the next 10 to 15 years, approximately 70 percent of the United States’ mining industry’s technical leaders will reach retirement age. The bill addresses the issues of a retiring workforce by requiring the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement to direct at least 70 percent of its research funding to mining schools to “enhance and support mining and mineral engineering programs.” [Memo](#)

### **Related Oversight:**

April 5 – Legislative Hearing on H.R. 1731, the “RECLAIM Act”

May 17 – Oversight Hearing on “Review Recent State Successes with the Rigs to Reefs Program”

June 7 – Oversight Hearing on “The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement’s Abandoned Mine Lands Program”



## Improving Public Access to Federal Lands & Waters

### **The “Guides and Outfitters Act” or “GO Act” (H.R. 289) – passed Committee**

The “GO Act,” increases public access to recreation activities on federal lands by streamlining the special recreation permit process. Among other provisions, the bill prevents federal agencies from imposing fees for portions of trips that take place outside of federal lands, authorizes joint permits for cross-jurisdictional trips, and eliminates duplicative and costly environmental reviews for uses that are similar to previously authorized uses. [Press Release](#), [Memo](#)

### **“Superior National Forest Land Exchange Act of 2017” (H.R. 3115) – passed Committee**

The “Superior National Forest Land Exchange Act of 2017,” introduced by Rep. Rick Nolan (D-MN), facilitates the NorthMet Land Exchange between the U.S. Forest Service and Poly Met Mining, Inc. The bill swaps federal land for private inholdings within the Superior National Forest, resolving a long running complication regarding split ownership of surface and mineral rights and creating new opportunities for fishing, hunting and other types of outdoor recreation.” [Memo](#)

### **Related Oversight:**

July 19 – Oversight Hearing on “Exploring the Successes and Challenges of the Magnuson-Stevens Act”

March 15 – Oversight Hearing on “Examining the Creation and Management of Marine Monuments and Sanctuaries”

May 2 – Oversight Hearing on “Consequences of Executive Branch Overreach of the Antiquities Act”





## Protecting States' Rights and Improving Federal Land Management

### **“Red River Gradient Boundary Survey Act” (H.R. 428) – passed House**

The “Red River Gradient Boundary Survey Act,” introduced by Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-TX), commissions a survey of the gradient boundary along the Red River to end decades of confusion over the true boundary between Texas and Oklahoma. The bill brings certainty to landowners along the Red River. [Press Release](#), [One Pager](#)

### **“Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform Act of 2017” or “FLAIR Act” (H.R. 2199) – passed Committee**

The “Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform Act of 2017,” introduced by Rep. Kevin Cramer (R-ND), improves federal land management, resource conservation, environmental protection, and use of federal real property by the development of a multipurpose cadastre of federal property and identifying inaccurate, duplicate and out-of-date federal land inventories. [Press Release](#), [Memo](#)

### **“Washington County, Utah, Public Lands Management Implementation Act” (H.R. 2423) – passed Committee**

The “Washington County, Utah, Public Lands Management Implementation Act,” introduced by Rep. Chris Stewart (R-UT), implements compromises local Utah officials negotiated in good-faith with the BLM over 8 years ago to create a 4-mile transportation corridor in the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area in Southern Utah. This important corridor meets the needs of the city of St. George while minimizing the impacts to desert tortoise habitat. [Memo](#)

### **Protecting States' Authority to Manage Fish and Game (H.J. Res. 69) – signed into law**

H.J. Res. 69, introduced by Rep. Don Young (R-AK), reversed the rule issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) that seized authority from the State of Alaska to manage fish and wildlife for recreational and non-subsistence uses on federal wildlife refuges. [Press Release](#), [Info](#), [One Pager](#), [The Scope](#)

### **Protecting State and Local Input in Federal Land Management (H.J. Res. 44) – signed into law**

H.J. Res. 44, introduced by Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY), reversed the rule issued by the BLM that shifted management decisions from cooperative local communities to bureaucrats in Washington, DC. [Press Release](#), [Info](#), [One Pager](#), [The Scope](#)

### **Related Oversight:**

July 19 – Legislative Hearing on 5 bills to reform and improve the Endangered Species Act

- H.R. 424 the “Gray Wolf State Management Act of 2017”
- H.R. 717 the “Listing Reform Act”
- H.R. 1274 the “State, Tribal, and Local Species Transparency and Recovery Act”
- H.R. 2603 the “Saving America’s Endangered Species Act” or “SAVES Act”
- H.R. 3131 the “Endangered Species Litigation Reasonableness Act”



March 15 – Oversight Hearing on “Examining the Creation and Management of Marine Monuments and Sanctuaries”

May 2 – Oversight Hearing on “Consequences of Executive Branch Overreach of the Antiquities Act”



## Water Abundance & Drought Prevention

### **“Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act” or “WIIN Act” (S. 612) – signed into law last Congress**

The WIIN Act provides drought relief for California and the West through greater water storage and delivery while improving environmental conservation and management. [Press Release](#), [Summary](#), [The Scope](#)

### **“Gaining Responsibility on Water Act of 2017” or the “GROW ACT” (H.R. 23) – passed House**

The “GROW Act,” introduced by Rep. David Valadao (R-CA), addresses underlying federal policy, regulatory and administrative failures that have contributed to the mismanagement of water supplies across the West. It expands water storage, improves infrastructure, ensures water reliability and protects water rights. The GROW Act gives federal agencies the tools they need to help safeguard communities from the arduous effects of future droughts. [Press Release](#), [One Pager](#)

### **“Water Rights Protection Act of 2017” (H.R.2939) – passed Committee**

The “Water Rights Protection Act of 2017,” introduced by Rep. Scott Tipton (R-CO), protects privately held water rights from federal overreach. It prohibits the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture from requiring private entities to relinquish their water rights to the federal government as a permit condition to continue operating on federal lands – an abuse of power with which Western states have been repeatedly threatened. [Press Release](#), [Memo](#)

### **“Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act” (H.R. 1654) – passed House**

The “Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act,” introduced by Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA), creates a “one-stop-shop” permitting process through the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) for new or expanded nonfederal surface storage facilities. The bill reduces conflicting agency permit requirements that impose unnecessary costs and burdens on water storage infrastructure. [One Pager](#)

### **Related Oversight:**

May 3 – Oversight Hearing on “Challenges of Keeping Hydropower Affordable and Opportunities for New Development”



## Catastrophic Wildfire Relief & Forestry Reform

### **“Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017” (H.R. 2936) – passed Committee**

The “Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017,” introduced by Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR), reduces the risk of catastrophic wildfire and dramatically improves the health and resiliency of federal forests. The bipartisan bill is a comprehensive forest management package that solves the fire-borrowing problem and gives federal land managers immediate tools to increase the pace and scale of management and restoration projects. [Press Release](#), [Info-graphic](#), [Memo](#)

### **“Crooked River Ranch Fire Protection Act” (H.R. 2075) – passed Committee**

The “Crooked River Ranch Fire Protection Act,” introduced by Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR), adjusts the eastern boundary of the Whychus-Deschuted Wilderness Study Area (WSA) in the State of Oregon to facilitate fire prevention and response activities to protect hundreds of homes in the community of Crooked River Ranch. This modest adjustment of federal bureaucratic boundaries removes restrictions that severely restrict fire prevention activities and limit the tactics available to firefighter to protect life and property in the event of catastrophic wildfire. [Memo](#)

### **Related Oversight:**

May 17 – Oversight Hearing on “Seeking Better Management of America’s Overgrown, Fire-Prone National Forests”

June 8 – Oversight Hearing on “Burdensome Litigation and Federal Bureaucratic Roadblocks to Manage our Nation’s Overgrown, Fire-Prone National Forests”

June 15 – Legislative Hearing on the Discussion Draft of the “Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017”



## Empowering Indian, Insular & Alaska Native Communities

### **“King Cove Road Land Exchange Act” (H.R. 218) – passed House**

The “King Cove Road Land Exchange Act,” introduced by Rep. Don Young (R-AK), authorizes a land exchange between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Alaska to construct an 11-mile, life-saving road connecting the remote community of King Cove to a modern, all-weather airport with access to emergency medical services in Cold Bay, Alaska. [Press Release](#). [One Pager](#)

### **“Indian Health Care Improvement Act” (H.R. 2662)**

The “Indian Health Care Improvements Act,” introduced by Rep. Kristi Noem (R-SD), addresses longstanding problems with the way the Indian Health Service (IHS) administers healthcare to tribes. It improves the recruitment and retention of employees, restores accountability in the HIS, and improves patient care standards. [Memo](#)

### **Related Oversight:**

March 9 – Oversight Hearing on “Improving and Expanding Infrastructure in Tribal and Insular Communities”

March 22 – Oversight Hearing on “The Status of the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) Restructuring Support Agreement”

May 23 – Oversight Hearing on “The Status and Future of the Cobell Land Consolidation Program”

On June 7 – Legislative Hearing on H.R. 1074, H.R. 1901, the “Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium Land Transfer Act of 2017” and S. 249

June 21 – Legislative Hearing on H.R. 2662, the “Restoring Accountability in the Indian Health Service Act of 2017”

July 13 – Oversight Hearing on “Comparing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Trust Land Acquisition with the Intent of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Congress in Section 5 of the Indian Reorganization Act”

July 25 – Oversight Hearing on “Asserting Current Conditions and Challenges at the Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center in American Samoa”



## **Reforming Landmark Natural Resource & Environmental Laws:**

The Committee has continued its important role in overseeing executive branch regulations, rules and actions and monitoring the effectiveness of natural resource and environmental laws.

### **Endangered Species Act (ESA)**

Republicans continue to conduct extensive oversight of ESA and will soon be advancing legislative reforms to improve and reform the Act. Signed into law in 1973, over 1,564 species have been listed under the ESA, but only 23 recovered species have been delisted, amounting to a one percent success rate. Republicans believe we can improve ESA through reforms that promote scientific data transparency, increase local and state engagement, and de-incentivize abusive litigation that siphons critical resources away from actual species recovery.

### **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**

Republicans continue to conduct extensive oversight of NEPA demonstrating the need to modernize the statute and prevent it from being used as a bureaucratic tool to delay or impede domestic energy production, infrastructure development, forest management and range of other responsible, job-supporting activities.

### **Related Oversight:**

July 19 – Legislative Hearing on 5 bills to reform and improve the Endangered Species Act

- H.R. 424 the “Gray Wolf State Management Act of 2017”
- H.R. 717 the “Listing Reform Act”
- H.R. 1274 the “State, Tribal, and Local Species Transparency and Recovery Act”
- H.R. 2603 the “Saving America’s Endangered Species Act” or “SAVES Act”
- H.R. 3131 the “Endangered Species Litigation Reasonableness Act”

March 28 – Oversight Hearing on “ESA Consultation Impediments to Economic and Infrastructure Development”

May 24 – Oversight Hearing on “Examining Impacts of Federal Natural Resources Laws Gone Astray”

June 28 – Oversight Hearing on “Examining Policy Impacts of Excessive Litigation Against the Department of the Interior”

July 18 – Oversight Hearing on “Examining Impacts of Federal Natural Resources Laws Gone Astray, Part II”

